

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

contract for the transport to and sale of local salt at Alleppey has been entered into with Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar and he has waived his claims for damages under the contract of 1095.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I know what were the reasons which induced the Government not to put up that contract to public auction?

MR. N. NILAKANDA PILLAI: I claim notice.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: With reference to part (c), may I know why Government were not able to perform their part of the contract?

MR. N. NILAKANDA PILLAI: I claim notice for that also.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: I want to know which officer or officers are responsible for the non-performance of the contract.

PRESIDENT: I can give the information Mr. Paramesvaran Pillai wants. But I think it would be better for me not to give answers to supplementary questions.

All the information wanted by the member could be given, but unfortunately Mr. N. Nilakanada Pillai cannot give it now.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: It is stated in the answer that a fresh contract was given to Mr. Subrahmanya Karayalar. I wish to know whether that contract was entered into by the Government after public auction.

MR. N. NILAKANDA PILLAI: It cannot naturally have been, for it was given by way of compromise.

Publicity Work of Government.

232. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the existing arrangements for the publicity work of the Government?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the necessity for a publicity bureau similar to the one existing in British India?

(c) Do the Government intend either to reform or improve the existing arrangements?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to prepare and lay on the table a statement showing the expenditure during the last five years incurred in connection with such publicity work?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: (a) Under existing arrangements, the matter that has to be sent to the Press Room is determined by

the Secretary, or Assistant Secretary, as the case may be, in charge of each Section of the Secretariat, and such matter is placed in the Press Room as soon as orders are finally passed. The Secretary in charge of the Legislative Section sees that the papers sent to the Press Room are arranged and placed on the table for the convenience of Press Reporters. An attender and a peon borne on the establishment of the Legislative Section are detailed for work in the Press Room.

(b) & (c) Opinion on the matter is divided and Government are not at present in a position to say what measures they may adopt in regard to this matter in the future.

(d) The only expenditure now incurred in this direction is on account of the purchase, from the Madras Publicity Bureau, of leaflets calculated to educate the public on such matters as sanitation, public health, and economic and agricultural progress, and their free circulation. The cost on account of such purchase during 1096 was Rs. 1,465, and during 1097, Rs. 1,021.

Maximum prohibitory assessment under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

233. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: Will the Government be pleased to issue instructions to the Land Revenue officers not to impose the maximum prohibitory assessment under the Land Conservancy Regulation in cases of encroachment of land the permanent occupation of which is objectionable, while the temporary occupation of the same may not be so?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The member is referred to rule 7, clause (1), of the Rules under the Land Conservancy Regulation, as amended by Notification Dis. No. 814 of 22/Revenue, dated the 18th July, 1922, under which no prohibitory assessment is imposable on *porambake* lands the temporary occupation of which is unobjectionable. They are dealt with under rule 9 (ii) of the above Rules and leased on *Kuttakapattam* for specific periods subject to the *Kuttakapattam* Rules.

Amendment of the Rules under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

234. MR. PAUL V. DANIEL: In view of the hardship felt by the poor landholders, will the Government be pleased to amend the Rules under the Land Conservancy Regulation so as to reduce the maximum multiple of the ordinary assessment now fixed for the calculation of prohibitory assessment?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR: The attention of the member is drawn to Notification Dis. No. 814 of 22/Revenue, dated the 18th July, 1922, whereby the maximum of prohibitory assessment is limited to five times the normal assessment.